

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-05 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00

ACDA-07 EB-08 IO-13 SAB-02 /104 W

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R 241905Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4572

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USSOUTHCOM, SCJ2

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 4086

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A), SHUM, PINT, UY

SUBJ: ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN

MINISTER ROVIRA

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR, LISTER, O'MAHONY, DCM, AND CHIEF OF THE POLITICAL SECTION YOULE MET WITH FONMIN ROVIRA AND HIS PRINCIPAL ADVISORS FOR HOUR LONG MEETING MORNING OF AUGUST 18. THE MEETING OPENED WITH EXCHANGE OF EXPRESSIONS OF WILLINGNESS TO DIALOGUE ON PART OF BOTH TODMAN AND FONMIN ROVIRA, IN PRESENCE OF LARGE NUMBER PHOTOGRAPHERS AND JOURNALISTS.

2. WHEN PRESS RETIRED, TODMAN EMPHASIZED THAT: (1) HE HAD COME TO UNDERSTAND, FIRST HAND, URUGUAYAN REALITY; (2) HE HAD FULL CONFIDENCE IN AMBASSADOR AND MISSION AND THEIR RANGE OF CONTACTS, TO WHICH HE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE; AND, (3) HE HAD COME TO LISTEN TO URUGUAYAN SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW RELATIONS
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COULD BE IMPROVED. TODMAN STRESSED THAT THERE ARE SERIOUS IMPEDIMENTS TO IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS, URUGUAY'S INTERNATIONAL STANDING AND IMAGE HAS BEEN TARNISHED BY ITS HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE. THIS , IN TURN, HAS RESULTED IN LEGISLATION WHICH LIMITS OUR FREEDOM OF ACTION. HE STRESSED THAT GOU'S NEGATIVE IMAGE IS NOT ONLY RESULT OF CAMPAIGN BY PARTISAN GROUPS, BUT

RATHER FORMED SUBSTANTIALLY BY INFORMATION DISSEMINATED BY RESPECTED SOURCES. URUGUAYANS MUST CHANGE PRACTICES AND THIS IMAGE, IN ORDER THAT WE CAN RETURN TO CLOSE RELATIONS WE BOTH DESIRE. WE HAVE NO INTENTION T TELL GOU WHAT TO DO, OR HOW TO DO IT, AS THESE ARE THE PREROGATIVES OF A SOVERIGN NATION. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED, WE WISH TO HELP GOU BRING ABOUT CHANGES WHICH IT DESIRES.

3. ROVIRA RESPONDED WITH FAMILIAR JUSTIFICATTION OF GOU'S POSITION. URUGUAY'S IMAGE, HE STATED, IS RESULT OF SMEAR CAMPAIGN CONDUCTED BY ITS ENEMIES. THESE ENEMIES REFUSE TO ADMIT DEFEAT, AND URUGUAY REMAINS ENGAGED IN LONG AND CRUEL WAR. THE LEADERSHIP OF THIS COUNTRY WAS FORMED WITH ANOTHER PHILOSOPHY, IN ANOTHER SITUATION. HOWEVER, THEY WERE FORCED TO CHANGE TO AVOID ANOTHER CUBA. GOU DOES NOT WANT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND, IF THER HAVE BEEN ABUSES, GOU DOES NOT WISH TO REPEAT THEM. HE CONCLUDED THAT URUGUAY MUST GET ITSELF OUT OF THIS SITUATION AND, AS A PROUD AND NATIONALISTICCC NATION, IT WILL.

4. TODMAN THEN EMPHASIZED THAT, IN QUESTIONS OF IMAGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS, U.S. ACCORDS SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (IAHRC), AND TO HEMISPHERIC HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTION.

ROVIRA NOTED THAT URUGUAY HAS HAD A BAD EXPERIENCE WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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IAHRC, AS 7.S. KNOWS FROM GRENADA. URUGUAY MUST NOW RESPOND TO AN IAHRC REPORT AND WISHES DO SO FULLY AND PRECISELY. HOWEVER, URUGUAY MUST ASK FOR MORE TIME TO PREPARE ITS REPLY.

5. TODMAN NOTED THAT WE WISH TO STRENGTHEN THE IAHRC FURTHER WITH ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL. ALVAREZ THEN REPEATED HIS IMPASSIONED ANDLENGTHY GRENADA DIATRIBE AGANST IAHRC, CHARGING IT IS "POLITICIZED AND PARTIAL", AND THAT IT WISHES TO ACT AS BOTH ACCUSER AND JUDGE. HE THEN ARGUES THAT URUGUAY, TODAY, "IS AKIN TO A SICK PERSON SLOWLY RECOVERING FROM A MOST SERIOUS ILLNESS; RETURNING TOO QUICKLY TO NORMAL ROUTINE COULD CAUSE ARELAPSE AND EVEN DEATH." IN ANY CASE, HE DECLARED, THE GOU WILL NOT COOPERATE WITH THE IAHRC UNLESS THAT BODY IS DEPOLITICIZED AND ITS OBJECTIONABLE PRACTICES ELIMINATED.

6. MR.TODMAN THEN RAISED ISSUE OF GOU'S UNRESPONSIVENESS IN OTHER RESPECTS CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS, SUGGESTING THAT BY ANSWERING ITS MAIL GOU COULD DO MUCH TO CLARIFY NATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES. WHEN THERE IS NO RESPONSE PEOPLE ASSUME THE WORST. ROVIRA COUNTERED WITH ARGUMENT THAT PROVIDING INFORMATION COULD DESTROY GOU'S ABILITY EFFECTIVELY TO CARRY

OUT INVESTIGATION OR DAMAGE ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER NATIONS.
HE CITED THE TAVARES CASE AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE LATTER.
THE GOU WAS SUFFERING BECAUSE THE MEXICAN GOVT. HAS ASKED IT
TO KEEP THE CASE QUIET.

7. PEZZULLO COUNTER THAT, IN TAVARES CASE, IMPACT ON
WORLD OPINION WAS GREATER PRECISELY BECAUSE URUGUAY HAD
NOT FOLLOWED AN OPEN LINE IN PAST. A DIFFERENT RESPONSE AND A
DIFFERENT APPROACH COULD HAVE PRODUCED A POSITIVE REACTION
IN WORLD OPINION AND AVOIDED ANOTHER BLOT ON URUGUAY'S RECORD.
ROVIRA AGAIN PROCLAIMED GOU'S INABILITY TO SPEAK OUT ON
TAVARES CASE AND EXPRESSED BITTERNESS AT MEXICAN GOVERNMENT'S

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 4086

TWO FACED POLICY AND THE DISTORTED IMAGE OF URUGUAY CREATED IN
THE MEXICAN PRESS. HE THEN SUGGESTED THAT ANY FURTHER DISCUSSIONS
BE CONTINUED AT LATER LUNCH WITH MILITARY FIGURES AND CONCLUDED BY
EXPRESSING HOPE THAT U.S. SHOULD NEVER FACE SAME TEST WHICH URUGUAY
HAS FACED.

8. TODMAN THEN TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO SHIFT DISCUSSION TO PANAMA CANAL
TREATY, DETAILING REASONS WHICH HAD LED USG TO SEEK SUCH A TREATY
AND BENEFITS WHICH WE BELIEVE IT WILL BRING TO BOTH PARTIES. HE
ALSO EXPLAINED MANNER IN WHICH HEMISPHERIC AND U.S. SECURITY INTERESTS

ARE FULLY PROTECTED BY NEW TREATY. TOUCHING ON NEED TO CONVINCE

AMERICAN PUBLIC THAT TREATY IS CORRECT AND IN OUR INTERESTS, HE STATED

THAT AN EXPRESSION OF APPROVAL OR SUPPORT OF THE SUCCESSFUL TREATY
NEGOTIATIONS BY GOU WOULD BE APPRECIATED BY OUR GOVERNMENT. HE
SUGGESTED THAT SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD BE BEST CONVEYED BY THE URUGUAY
AND
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EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, AS ITS IMPACT IN THE U.S. WOULD BE GREATER
THROUGH THAT CHANNEL. IN RESPONSE, ROVIRA RECOGNIZED CANAL PROBLEM
TO BE A DIFFICULT ONE AND EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO HELP.

9. TODMAN THEN NOTED THAT SEVERAL KEY ISSUES HAD NOT BEEN RAISED
AND INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO RESPOND TO, OR CLARIFY, ANY QUESTIONS

REGARDING OUR CUBA POSITION OR LAW OF THE SEAS MATTERS. IT WAS
AGREED TO DISCUSS THESE TOPICS DURING THE LUNCHEON.

10. PEZZULLO THEN RETURNED CONVERSATION TO NECESSITY FOR URUGUAY
TO INVITE IN, AT SOME FUTURE DATE, EITHER THE IAHRG OR SIMILAR
ORGANIZATION, NOTING THAT WITHOUT AN OUTSIDE JUDGEMENT, EVEN IF SOME-
WHAT POLITICAL, IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO
CHANGE THE CLIMATE OF INTERNATIONAL OPINION. SOME NEUTRAL PARTY MUST
STATE THAT FACTS ARE THUS AND SO.

11. AMBASSADOR ALVAREZ RESPONDED WITH REITERATION OF GOU'S
OBJECTIONS TO CRRENT STRUCTURE OF IAHRG AND CLAIMED THAT
ORGANIZATION MUST ADOPT ANOTHER FOCUS, STICK TO ITS STATUTES, AND
JUDGE ALL COUNTRIES EQUALLY. TODMAN THEN NOTED THAT USG HAS SOUGHT
TO HAVE IAHRG VISIT ALL COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE AND THAT WE,
OURSELVES, WOULD ACCEPT SUCH A VISIT. TODMAN CONCLUDED WITH
STATEMENT THAT IN IMPERFECT WORLD WE MUST ALL WORK TOGETHER TO
SOLVE THESE MUTUAL PROBLEMS.

12. CLEARED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN.
PEZZULLO

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